

EDITORIAL

JINS Turns Five

IGOR GRANT

In 1999 *JINS* is celebrating its fifth birthday. It was in July, 1994 that I had the honor of being appointed Editor-in-Chief of our Society's fledgling Journal by the INS Governing Board; and it was with some pride that all of us received the inaugural issue of the Journal in January, 1995. It has been a busy 5 years. At this juncture, it seems appropriate to reflect briefly on what has been, and comment on future directions.

SETTING UP THE JOURNAL

Having defined the Journal's aims and scope, the three most pressing tasks were creating an Editorial Board, establishing the Editorial Office, and issuing a call for manuscripts.

Editorial Board

To fulfill the Journal's mission, its Editorial Board had to be broadly representative of the interests of the members of the Society, reflective of the Society's diversity, and organized in a manner that assured prompt and fair peer review. To accomplish this the Board was organized in two tiers: a group of 47 Consulting Editors selected from members of the Society to reflect geographic and professional diversity, as well as to provide some mix of seniority; and a smaller group of Senior Editors to assist the Editor-in-Chief in selecting reviewers and in making final review decisions. Reflecting the international nature of the INS, the Consulting Editors hailed from 11 countries including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

Because *JINS* wished to be innovative in fostering diverse communication mechanisms, it was decided to have two groups of Senior Editors. One group of five Associate Editors was selected based primarily on their scientific interests to assist in review of Regular Research Articles. A second group of Department Editors was established specifically to encourage alternative forms of communication. Thus, Departments were established in the areas Critical Reviews/Updates, Symposia, Dialogues, and Book Reviews. At a later point, because of the need to assure better quality control over the abstracts from scientific meetings, a new Department on Scientific Program Issues was also formed.



Igor Grant, *JINS* Editor

Five distinguished members of the INS agreed to serve as Associate Editors for the first five year period. These included Erin D. Bigler, Eileen Fennell, Kenneth M. Heilman, Alex Martin, and Elizabeth K. Warrington. In addition to bringing their outstanding reputations to *JINS*, these five Associate Editors provided an excellent breadth of expertise to include general adult neuropsychology, child neuropsychology and development, behavioral neurology, cognitive science, test development with clinical populations, and imaging.

Department Editors were likewise chosen both for their visibility in academic neuropsychology and in order to provide additional breadth to the senior editorial structure. The original Department Editors included Jason Brandt (Critical Reviews/Updates), Laird Cermak (Symposia), Barbara A. Wilson and Marianne Regard (Dialogues), and Muriel Lezak (Book Reviews). In 1997, the Dialogues feature was combined with Jason Brandt's Critical Review/Updates Department and is now called Critical Reviews and Dialogues. Earlier (in July, 1995), Keith Owen Yeates was appointed to head the new Department concentrating on Scientific Program Issues.

Establishing the Editorial Office

To help support the operations of the Journal, the Society provided a half time stipend for an Editorial Assistant, and

some additional funds for regular operations and equipment and supplies purchase. We were fortunate early on that Diana Snyder, who was then assisting Nelson Butters in *Neuropsychology*, had 50% of her time available, and Nelson kindly permitted me to hire Diana to assist with establishing *JINS*. Her knowledge and experience from her work with Nelson on *Neuropsychology* were invaluable in creating the initial *JINS* database and tracking system, review forms, and generally establishing the procedures for the office. After Nelson's death and following the transfer of the Editorial Office of *Neuropsychology* to Boston, Diana chose to take fulltime employment elsewhere. I was fortunate to be able to persuade Mary Beth Hiller to take the job of Editorial Assistant. Ms. Hiller has built ably on the foundation set by Diana and has introduced a number of improvements, including an enhanced paper and computer tracking system, a very interactive mode of communicating with our reviewers to keep review time to a minimum, as well as applying her formidable skills as a copy editor to the technical review of accepted manuscripts.

PROGRESS REPORT

With strong effort on the part of the Editors, Editorial Office, and the Publisher, and with wonderful support from members of the INS who contributed early manuscripts to the fledgling Journal, we were able to launch *JINS* on time with the first full issue devoted to regular articles and other features in January, 1995 and the first North American Abstracts issue appearing in March, 1995. Since January, 1995, 28 regular issues of *JINS* have been produced. Of these issues, 5 were full abstract issues of North American meetings, 5 were partially devoted to abstracts from the summer meetings of the INS, and the rest consisted of regular journal issues.

In its first four full years of operation, *JINS* has published 137 Regular Research Articles, 8 Brief Communications, 4 Symposia, each consisting of a thematically linked series of 6-7 peer reviewed scientific articles, 5 Critical Review/Updates, 5 Dialogues, 4 Letters to the Editor, and 44 Book Reviews.

The research papers embraced a broad range of topics of interest to neuropsychologists. Table 1 provides a breakdown of major topics, as well as the number of articles devoted to each topic. In terms of countries of origin, while the majority of papers were from North America (66.7% USA; 6.7% Canada), we were successful in attracting and publishing a substantial number of articles from many different countries (including 5.6% UK; 2% other parts of Europe; 4.9% Australia and New Zealand; 2.5% Latin America).

An important goal that the Society set for *JINS* was to go beyond simply publishing high quality scientific articles. The Society wished *JINS* to have some unique features that would distinguish it from other good journals, and that would

Table 1. Topic Areas Published in *JINS* through end of 1998

| Topic | N |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Alzheimer's Disease | 30 |
| Amnesia | 4 |
| Attention | 16 |
| Cerebrovascular Accidents | 10 |
| Children & Developmental Disorders | 22 |
| Cognitive Science | 12 |
| Cross-Cultural/Minority | 4 |
| Dementia | 14 |
| Depression | 4 |
| Drug & Alcohol Abuse | 7 |
| Elderly/Aging | 5 |
| Electrophysiology | 3 |
| Epilepsy | 7 |
| Followup and Longitudinal Studies | 6 |
| Head Injuries | 24 |
| Human Immunodeficiency Virus | 12 |
| Huntington's Disease | 4 |
| Immunologic Disorders | 2 |
| Intelligence | 9 |
| Language & Language Disorders | 20 |
| Lateral Dominance | 9 |
| Learning & Memory | 57 |
| Meta Analysis | 3 |
| Meta-cognition | 3 |
| Motor Processes and Skills | 3 |
| Multiple Sclerosis | 3 |
| Neglect | 6 |
| Neuroimaging | 6 |
| Other Medical Disorders | 9 |
| Other Psychiatric Disorders | 4 |
| Parkinson's Disease | 7 |
| Perception | 10 |
| Perceptual Motor Processes | 5 |
| Priming | 6 |
| Reaction Time | 7 |
| Schizophrenia | 7 |
| Test Development | 9 |

Note: articles may be represented in more than one topic area

provide added benefit to the Society. To accomplish this, we established a Departmental structure wherein our Department Editors were tasked to encourage the submission of reviews, thematically linked papers, dialogues, and thoughtful book reviews.

The *Symposia* were designed to permit a concentration of thought on a topic of importance by publishing thematically linked sets of articles. Wishing to avoid some of the pitfalls inherent in invited articles, Laird Cermak, the Editor for Symposia, established rigorous review criteria for such submissions. As a result, we believe that the Symposia feature has been characterized by the high quality of work from distinguished contributors. Symposia titles included "Dissociable Processing Mechanisms in Amnesia" (Laird

Cermak) (September, 1995); “Varieties of Neglect” (Laird Cermak) (September, 1996); “Pediatric Head Injury: Developmental Implications” (Vicki Anderson and Keith Owen Yeates) (November, 1997); “Cognitive Disorders: Searching for the Circumstances of Effective Treatment” (Leslie Gonzalez Rothi) (November, 1998); “Semantic Memory in Alzheimer’s Disease” (Beth Ober) (November, 1999).

Similarly, the *Critical Reviews/Update* Department was tasked to provide scholarly treatment of topics that might be of particular interest to neuropsychologists. As with Laird Cermak, Jason Brandt has established high standards for these features that included “Neuropsychological Studies of Asymptomatic Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Type 1 Infected Individuals” (White et al.) (May, 1995); “The Neuropsychology of Mental Retardation” (Pulsifer) (March, 1996); “Lewy Bodies and Progressive Dementia: A Critical Review and Meta-analysis” (Cercy & Bylsma) (March, 1997); “The Neuropsychology of Object Constancy” (Turnbull et al.) (May, 1997); “A Quantitative Review of Cognitive Deficits in Depression and Alzheimer-type Dementia” (Christensen et al.) (November, 1997); “Schizophrenia and the Frontal Brain: A Quantitative Review” (Zakzanis & Heinrichs) (September, 1999).

The *Dialogues* feature was established to elicit lively discourse on controversial topics. The Dialogues topics have included “Systems Versus Processing Views of Memory” (Blaxton vs. Gabrieli) (January, 1995); “Cognitive Rehabilitation” (Wilson vs. Prigatano) (September, 1997); “The Central Executive” (Parkin vs. Baddeley) (September, 1998).

In establishing a *Book Reviews* Department, we again wished to emphasize both scholarship and liveliness. Muriel Lezak has clearly attained these objectives by eliciting fine reviews from a broad range of experts. In addition to the formal book reviews, Dr. Lezak has also created a feature termed “Books of Interest” which allows her to acknowledge some recent publications that should be brought to the attention of our readership, even though space does not permit reviewing each one of them.

Vital Statistics

It may be of interest to readers to have some insight into manuscript flow, review time, publication time, and data on editorial actions. In terms of *manuscripts received*, the journal received 59 manuscripts in 1994 (this was a partial year) and then ranged from 99-137 manuscripts annually in the years 1995 through 1998. The number of submissions has increased steadily. The journal began with a total allocation of 600 pages in 1995. This was increased to 700 pages in 1997 and has now been increased to 850 pages. Additionally, in order to improve the timeliness of publication of manuscripts, a new January “articles” issue was implemented as of January, 1999 (previously there was a gap between November and March, with the January issue being devoted to Abstracts of the Winter INS meeting).

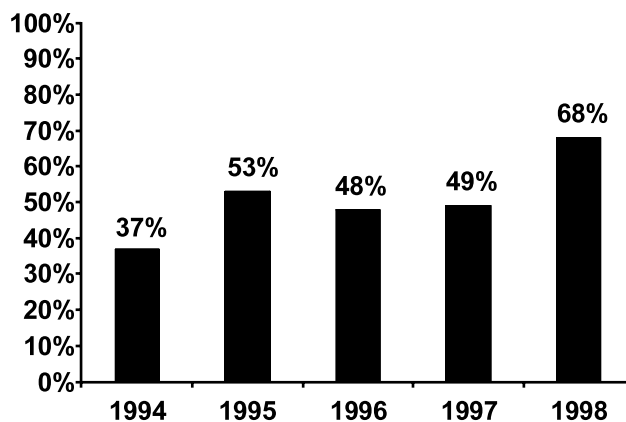


Fig. 1. The overall rejection rate of manuscripts, 1994–1998.

Acceptance/Rejection Statistics

Figure 1 summarizes the editorial decisions by year. The overall rejection rate of manuscripts is calculated as:

$$(1 - (\text{Accepted}/\text{Submitted})) \times 100$$

Review Time

Figure 2 provides details on the median time it has taken to review an article in each of the years (i.e., the editorial lag). Editorial lag is calculated by considering the date that a submission was first logged in and the date that the Editor-in-Chief sent his decision to the authors.

Because review time was gradually creeping up from 1995 through 1997 (reaching about 3 months in 1997), the Editorial Office instituted a more detailed analysis of the source of delays. The review process has many steps, with many possibilities for delay. It became evident that there were delays both within the editorial office and among the reviewers that needed to be addressed. A more vigorous system of

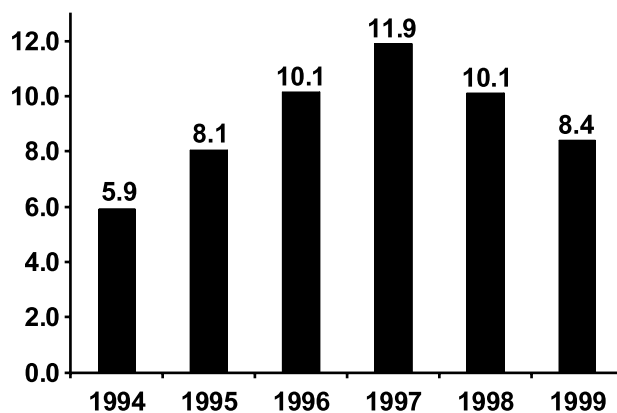


Fig. 2. The median time it takes to review an article (editorial lag), 1994–1999.

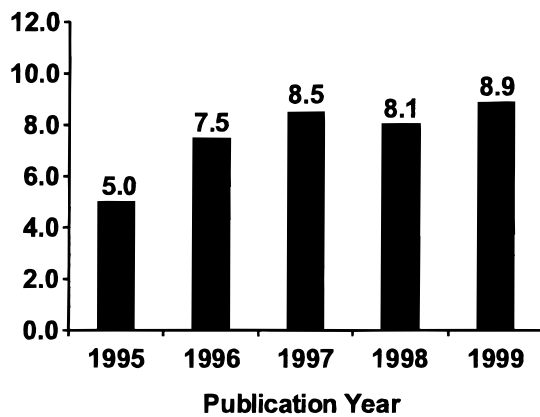


Fig. 3. The mean time from acceptance to publication date (publication lag) by publication year, 1995–1999.

manuscript tracking was instituted with the result that overall review time was reduced markedly (from a median of 13 weeks to a median of 8.4 weeks) in the latter part in 1999.

Publication Time

The second element of publication delay comes from the time it takes for the accepted manuscript, once it is transmitted to the publisher, to actually appear in print (i.e., publication lag). Figure 3 provides year by year statistics on published manuscripts.

Because some of the publication delay was being created by the fact that there was no issue of *JINS* devoted to articles between November of any particular year and the following March (the January issue being devoted exclusively to abstracts), a further decision was made to introduce a new scientific articles issue, commencing January, 1999. This should help ease the artificial delay that was previously experienced.

Adoption of *JINS* by Indexing Services

Within its first year of publication, *JINS* was adopted by PsycInfo. In its second year, we were notified that Index Medicus had adopted us. Since then, *JINS* has also been adopted by ISI Current Contents/Clinical Medicine, as well as in the Science Citation Index, SciSearch (also known as the Science Citation Index-expanded), Research Alert, and the Neuroscience Citation Index. Thus, the major indexing services have now adopted *JINS*.

JINS On-Line

One factor weighed in choosing Cambridge University Press to publish *JINS* was the commitment of CUP to electronic publishing, and the experience this publisher was beginning to have with that medium. The Editor-in-Chief has been strongly of the opinion that one of the ways *JINS* should be

distinguishing itself from other neuropsychology publications was by moving *JINS* available on-line.

Accordingly, in 1997, CUP established a website for *JINS*, and shortly thereafter it was possible to access recent issues of the Journal, including tables of contents, and abstracts of the research papers. In 1998, the entire text of *JINS* became available on-line to institutional subscribers and, thereby, to individuals who were members of such subscribing institutions.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

While one can take some measure of pride in the fact that *JINS*, starting from scratch, has, in a period of five years, assumed its place as a major neuropsychology journal, this is not cause for us to go on “autopilot”. Additional growth and refinement are both desirable and possible. Below I note some areas of emphasis for the next several years.

To Make *JINS* On-Line Available to Every Member of the INS

As noted above, *JINS* is already available to individuals who are members of institutions that subscribe to *JINS*. However, there is no reason why the INS itself could not be “an institution”, which would then confer the right of every INS member to access the entire text of *JINS* on-line for purposes of research and education. It will be my objective to work closely with the Society and the Publisher to achieve the objective of creating this resource for all of our members in a fully searchable form.

Emphasize Additional Mechanisms of Scholarly Communication

We have already established interesting features for the journal, including the Symposia, Critical Reviews/Updates, and Dialogue features. Originally, we also established a “Rapid Communication” format. Unfortunately, because of the requirements of this section (including thorough peer review), these “Rapid Communications” became in point of fact “Brief Communications” (i.e., reports of more preliminary findings but which nevertheless were certainly not speculative).

We think there is a place for reporting observations and preliminary data quickly, in a suitably tentative manner, but in such a way that others will be stimulated to replicate the work or consider its implications in their own research. Several journals have successfully instituted peer reviewed “Letters to the Editor” as a mechanism to report on preliminary observations. Beginning in the summer of 1999 we began an experiment with this mechanism in order to facilitate truly rapid exchange of information. As noted in the revised Instructions to Contributors, “Research Letters” are intended to enable authors to publish new preliminary information that is interesting and provocative in a rapid fashion. “Re-

search Letters” will undergo review at the Senior Editorial level, without being sent out through the usual external peer review mechanism. If found suitable, such Research Letters will be published in the next issue, rather than being placed in the usual queue. To be considered, “Research Letters” must contain interesting, *new* observations that may help spur further research on the topic by others.

Another potential innovation that has been discussed is the possibility of introducing a “Neuropsychology Grand Rounds” feature. The idea was suggested by the highly successful “Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital” of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The notion would be that an author would assemble an interesting teaching case that has extensive cross-sectional and longitudinal information, including not only neuropsychological data, but also medical, imaging, genetic, laboratory, or other information that facilitates learning about diagnosis, differential diagnosis, missed diagnoses, clinical-pathological correlations, and so forth. Authors who might be interested in developing a Neuropsychology Grand Rounds should send the Editor-in-Chief (jins@ucsd.edu) a concept statement so that our office can provide guidance in developing the contribution.

Improving the Efficiency of Review and Publication

With the implementation of a new, more interactive data management system developed by Omar Alhassoon, a graduate student in my lab, and Michael J. Taylor, Ph.D., Project Scientist with our group, we plan to track even more closely the journey of manuscripts through our editorial review process. The goal will be to turn the typical manuscript around within eight weeks. It should be noted that we are approaching this goal, but there continue to be unacceptable outliers. This new data management system will also permit the Editorial Board to review other Journal characteristics, such as balance of topics, geographic source of manuscripts, and reviewer vital statistics with greater immediacy.

Increase the Institutional Subscriptions to *JINS*

The Editorial Board will continue to work closely with the Society and CUP to encourage institutions to adopt *JINS*. In the past, we have sent letters to various members of the Society whose institutions were not subscribers. We intend to continue these kinds of outreach. In addition, we intend to send information to libraries that are not subscribers to inform them of the benefits of *JINS*, including the availability of *JINS* on-line to members of subscribing institutions. Readers of *JINS* and *JINS* authors are encouraged to check if their libraries carry the journal, and to recommend it if not.

Rotation of Editorial Board

With the five-year point at hand, it is desirable to effect a substantial rotation of consulting and senior editors, in or-

der to “refresh” the Editorial Board, as well as to give other members a chance to participate in our Journal. Accordingly, I have accepted the resignation of four of the five Associate Editors (Eileen Fennell, Alex Martin, Ken Heilman, Elizabeth Warrington) and have invited in their place Jennie Ponsford, Martha Denckla, James Becker, Stephen Rao and Yaakov Stern. Erin Bigler will continue to serve as the sixth Associate Editor. The Associate Editors who have stepped down have made enormous contributions to *JINS*, assuring its success during a critical developmental period. They deserve our sincerest gratitude.

In order to maintain continuity in the Senior Editorial structure and also to allow the Departments to develop more fully, I have asked all of the Department Editors to stay on. Thus, Jason Brandt will continue to be in charge of the Critical Reviews/Dialogues Department; Laird Cermak of the Symposia Department; Keith Owen Yeates of the Scientific Program Issues Department; and Muriel Lezak of the Book Reviews Department.

I have also made some changes in the larger Editorial Board itself, having invited 14 new members to participate, while rotating 11 members off. The members that will be retiring are Arthur Benton, Iowa City, IA; Marlene Oscar Berman, Boston University; H. Branch Coslett, Temple University; Guy Demeurisse, Hospital of the University of Brugmann, Brussels; Bjorn Ellertsen, University of Bergen; Harold Goodglass, VA Medical Center, Boston; Murray Grossman, University of Pennsylvania; Steven Mattis, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, NY; Mortimer Mishkin, National Institutes of Health; Marianne Regard, University Hospital, Zurich; Barbara A. Wilson, MRC Applied Psychology Unit, UK. I would like to take this opportunity to thank these Board members for their thoughtful and steady contributions.

The new members will be Alfredo Ardila, Instituto Colombiano de Neuropsicología, Bogota, Colombia; Lidia Artola, Tucson, AZ; William W. Beatty, University of Oklahoma; Laurence M. Binder, Beaverton, OR; Mark Bondi, VA San Diego Healthcare System; Agnes S. Chan, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Elizabeth L. Glisky, University of Arizona; Michael Kopelman, St. Thomas’s Hospital, UK; Robert Mapou, Bethesda, MD; Paul Massman, University of Houston; Andrew J. Saykin, Dartmouth University; Edith Sullivan, Stanford University; Mieke Verfaellie, VA Medical Center, Boston; Kathleen A. Welsh-Bohmer, Duke University, plus the four retiring Associate Editors (Eileen Fennell, University of Florida; Alex Martin, NIMH; Kenneth M. Heilman, University of Florida; Elizabeth Warrington, National Hospital, London, UK).

Changes are also occurring in the Editorial Office. For the past four years, Mary Beth Hiller has done an outstanding job as Editorial Assistant, a performance even more remarkable considering that she doubled as my Administrative Assistant in the other half of her life. This summer Mary Beth and I came to the conclusion that due to the tremendous increase in workload we have experienced, no human could do both jobs and survive. Therefore, after much heart-

felt deliberation and discussion, she has decided to return to her duties as my full-time University Assistant, and we have both selected Rebecca Marie Teel, who has provided part-time assistance for Mary Beth over the past two years, to become the official *JINS* Editorial Assistant. Please welcome Rebecca, and I trust you will all be as kind, considerate and helpful to her as you have been to Mary Beth these past years. I know that the *JINS* Editorial Board, our authors, as well as the Publisher join me in offering the most sincere thanks to Mary Beth for her exceptional contributions.

In summary, the first 5 years have witnessed the evolution of *JINS* from a glimmer in the eye of the INS Governing Board to a well-respected voice in scholarly neuropsychological communication. Working with the So-

ciety, our authors, reviewers, the Editorial Board, and our Publisher, I will strive toward the goal of deepening the quality, diversity, and impact of *JINS*. As always, the advice and comments of readers are welcomed and appreciated.

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